

Karen J. Mathis

Karen J. Mathis, a partner in the Denver office of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP, is the president-elect of the American Bar Association. She will serve as president-elect of the Association for one year beginning in August at the adjournment of the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, and will take office as president in August 2006 during the Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mathis is a business, commercial and estate planning lawyer with more than 30 years experience. She was a founder and shareholder in the Denver law firm of Hall & Mathis, P.C., for 18 years before it merged into the national firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP, on Nov. 1, 2004.

Mathis earned her law degree from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1975 and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Denver in 1972, cum laude. She has received honorary doctorates from Siena College and the University of Denver, and an honorary Order of the Coif from the University of Colorado. A member of the Colorado and International Women's Forum, she has been honored as an outstanding attorney by the Denver and Colorado Bar Associations, the University of Colorado and the University of Albany School of Law.

An active member of the ABA for almost 30 years, Mathis served as the Association's second highest officer, chair of its House of Delegates, from August 2000 until August 2002. She is the fourth woman elected to serve as an ABA officer, and the first president from Colorado. She has served as a member of the House of Delegates since 1982, including an eight-year stint as the Colorado State Delegate from 1992 to 2000. Mathis is also a member of the ABA Board of Governors, and has served on its Executive Committee and Program and Planning Committee.

Mathis's extensive ABA involvement includes leadership of numerous ABA entities. She served as chair of the 30,000-member General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section in 2002 to 2003; as chair of the Commission on Women in the Profession from 1997 to 2000; and as chair of the Standing Committee on Membership from 1994 to 1997.

Mathis has also been active in the Denver Bar Association and Colorado Bar Association for many years. She has held offices in the Young Lawyers Section of both bar associations, and served as First Vice President of the CBA in 1992-1993.